NOVEL CHARGED WITH 2 THEFTS

Bills of Information Are Filed by DA's Aid

Gordon Novel, former New Orleans bar owner wanted for questioning in District Attorney Jim Garrison's assassination conspiracy probe, was charged by Garrison's office Wednesday with two 1966 thefts.

William Gurvich, Garrison's chief aid, filed two direct bills of information against the 29-year-old Novel in the office of the clerk of criminal court at 4:10 p. m.

Novel, who left New Orleans last month, is free in Columbus, Ohio, on a $10,000 bond on a charge stemming from a local affidavit which alleges that he conspired to commit simple burglary of a Houma munitions bunker in August of 1961.

TRUTH SERUM TEST

In Columbus, it was announced Wednesday that Novel underwent a sodium amatol (truth serum) test in Mount Carmel Hospital Monday night, reportedly at his own request.

Novel was quoted as saying the test was to confirm the results of a lie detector test he took three weeks ago at McLean, Va. Three persons reportedly were present when he was under the drug's influence—the psychiatrist who administered it, a psychologist there as a witness and Novel's Columbus attorney, Jerry Weiner.

Weiner said results of Wednesday's test would be revealed soon, but would not specify when. Novel was questioned under the drug for more than 30 minutes Monday night, and was released Tuesday.

One of the charges filed Wednesday alleges that Novel committed a theft of property valued at $1,074.83 which belonged to Albert Bellevue between June 10 and Nov. 15, 1966.

ORIGINAL CHARGE

The other bill of information charges him with theft of merchandise valued at $1,356.32 from the Franklin Printing Co. between the dates of July 22 and Nov. 15, 1966.

Garrison's original charge against Novel, whom he has called "an important material witness" in the alleged New Orleans conspiracy to murder President John F. Kennedy, claimed that he conspired with Sergio Arcacha Smith and the late Dave Ferrie to burglarize the munitions bunker. Smith, once leader of a Cuban anti-Castro movement in New Orleans, is presently free on bond in Dallas, Tex., where he now lives.

The two latest charges against Novel came while extradition

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proceedings on the other charge were in progress.

In another probe development Wednesday, Omaha, Neb. chief deputy county attorney Arthur O'Leary filed an application in Omaha's district court requesting that Mrs. Lillie McMaines be asked to show cause why she should not return to New Orleans.

Mrs. McMaines, known as Sandra Moffett before her marriage, was named in testimony by Perry Raymond Russo as having accompanied him to Ferrie's home in 1963 on the same night the alleged assassination conspiracy took place.

PAPERS RECEIVED

Russo, a Baton Rouge insurance salesman, was Garrison's principal witness last month in a four-day hearing for local businessman Clay L. Shaw who has been charged with conspiring with Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald to murder President Kennedy. Of the three alleged conspirators, Shaw, 54, is the only one alive.

O'Leary's petition came after his office received formal papers from Orleans Parish certifying that Mrs. McMaines was a material witness wanted for questioning by Garrison.

The papers also asked that Mrs. McMaines be granted protection from arrest or the service of process, civil or criminal," in connection with matters arising prior to her entering Louisiana for the grand jury session beginning Tuesday. A check for $246 to cover her trip expenses was also included.

Mrs. McMaines had earlier been arrested on a fugitive warrant as a material witness and was released on $1,000 bond.

She has admitted knowing Russo, but denies she attended the party at Ferrie's home on the night of the alleged conspiracy.